

LEXICOGRAPHIC ORGANOLEPTICS: PERCEPTUAL SIGN ‘TASTE’ IN THE DEFINITION OF FRUIT NAMES (BASED ON DICTIONARIES OF DIFFERENT LANGUAGES)

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ABSTRACT: 223 definitions of lexemes of the thematic group “Fruits” selected from ten dictionaries of eight different languages were investigated in this article. All researched dictionaries were designed for a wide range of speakers and created in the second half of the twentieth century. The analysis showed that all definitions are specific, despite the fact that they provide information about the same objects perceivable by a human via senses. The task was to identify the peculiarities of using the taste marker when describing a particular fruit in different dictionaries.

Two fruits that have the highest marker usage rate for “taste” are date and grapefruit. It can be explained by some deviation from the organoleptic standard (the date is very sweet and the grapefruit is bitter). The tendency towards a significant decrease in the use of the “taste” marker while investigating the group of fruits growing on the territory of the corresponding country was revealed due to the fact that the taste of those fruits is actualized in the speakers' minds and forms a single complex with other perceptual features. The inclusion of the “taste” attribute in the definition can be intuitively perceived as redundant information. Another tendency reflects the increasing use of the “taste” marker in the description of fruits that are not typical for a particular country (territory) and are less likely to occur in the perceptual experience of speakers.

The definition is thus a means of constructing meaningful reality in accordance with some trends in the assessment of extra lingual phenomena.

KEYWORDS: explanatory dictionary, definition, perception, fruits, taste marker

Introduction. Nouns with a specific meaning make up an important part of the vocabulary of any language: they have a high frequency, significant word-forming potential, often serve as a means of nomination for the categories of the basic level of consciousness. Objects and phenomena denoted by such nouns are perceived by a person through his senses: hearing, sight, taste, touch, smell. Accordingly, the dictionary definitions of such nouns contain information called perceptual.

Despite the important role of units with a specific meaning in human communication, as well as the fact that the relevant objects surround people in their daily lives and may be familiar to them, in constructing definitions (dictionary interpretations) of their lexical meaning there are significant difficulties.

According to the famous Polish lexicographer Piotr Żmigrodzki, «lexicographic definitions, which we find in most dictionaries, leave much to be desired and have repeatedly been criticized by both researchers of semantics and modern methodologically knowledgeable practitioners-lexicographers» (Żmigrodzki, 2009, p. 184).

First of all, the difficulties in constructing definitions of specific vocabulary are due to the problem of selecting those features of the denotation that should be included in the interpretation. When it comes to artifacts, this problem is often solved by pointing to the structure of a particular extralinguistic object and its function (purpose). However, when describing the names of natural objects, this method of selection of features cannot be used. Natural objects have a lot of heterogeneous parameters; their excessive inclusion in the definition can lead to the transformation of the explanatory dictionary into an encyclopedic one, especially in those cases when lexicographers try to reflect in the interpretation the achievements of different sciences.

One of the striking examples of such a dictionary, where the definitions of a particular vocabulary are close to encyclopedic descriptions of certain concepts, is “Słownik języka polskiego” edited by Witold Doroszewski (SJPD). Much more often when constructing interpretations lexicographers adhere to the principle of reduction, ie minimization of the features of the corresponding concept, called a word. Here is how Russian linguists Zinaida Popova and Iosif Sternin write about this

phenomenon: The lexicographic meaning is formulated on the basis of the analysis of numerous contexts of the use of the word by means of logical reduction of semantic features recognized by the lexicographer as insignificant (Popova, Sternin, 2007, pp. 116-117).

An extreme manifestation of the principle of minimization of features is the statement of the Polish linguist Maciej Grochowski that in ordinary dictionaries it is necessary to abandon the description of the meaning of some frequently used nouns (such as names of days of the week, months, body parts, some animals and plants), because native speakers, even without a dictionary, know what such words mean (Grochowski, 2004, p.12). However, such a seemingly motivated way to reduce the volume of the dictionary will lead to the loss of motivational links between individual meanings of tokens (such as metaphor and metonymy). In addition, in practice it is difficult to determine which words are known to speakers and which are not, and how to draw the line between these groups of vocabulary.

Lexicographers-practitioners strive to find a middle ground between the principle of minimizing the features of the concept and trying to provide an extensive scientific description of reality.

In theoretical lexicography, there is a principle according to which the definition of a word should include only those features that distinguish the meaning of a given unit from the meaning of all other units, and these features should be necessary and sufficient, see statement by American linguist Edward Bendix, quoted by Fillmore: "The minimum definition is a statement of semantic components that are sufficient to distinguish the meaning [of a form] paradigmatically from the meanings of all other forms in the language" (Fillmore, 1968, p. 37).

As dictionary practice shows, it is impossible to implement this theoretical principle in dictionary practice, because the selection of necessary and sufficient features to include them in the definition encounters significant difficulties. We can't say exactly what the necessary and sufficient features are in the concepts 'cake', 'spring', 'ram', 'violin' or 'sky'. It is unclear what set of referent features should be constructed so that the definitions of these nouns are able to distinguish one word from all others.

The reason for this is that the concept of necessary and sufficient features belongs to the sphere of logic and relates to the genuineness of certain statements obtained by logical inferences. However, these concepts cannot be applied to the interpretation of the lexical meaning of a word as a product of the mental activity of lexicographers: "The category of genuineness in its strict logical sense is not applicable to lexical interpretations" (Zhuikova, Yodlovska, 2021, p. 55).

A more lenient requirement for interpretation is that definitions distinguish extra-linguistic phenomenon from another. As Yuriy Apresyan notes, "it is enough to demand interpretations of subject vocabulary that they have differential power, ie. that the interpretations of very similar subjects still differ from each other" (Apresyan, ASRYA 1, p. 22). This principle in practice does not remove the question of what features of objects should be considered essential for distinguishing similar phenomena, especially if we take into account the variability of the parameters of many realities. For example, rose flowers can be different colors, have a smell or not, the stem of the rose is thorny or smooth, the shape of the rose can be a bush or vine, and so on. The existence of a great variety of features within one concept greatly complicates the search for such features that could give the dictionary description "differential power".

Vocabulary definitions of words that denote familiar, common objects and phenomena often demonstrate the absence of a fixed, obligatory set of semantic features. The choice of features for interpretation is always the result of introspection of the lexicographer, ie activities aimed at analyzing his own linguistic competence. As the Russian linguist Rebecca Frumkina rightly believes, "any interpretation is subjective as necessary" (Frumkina, 1984, p. 15), in other words, the interpretations made by different lexicographers do not match, they actually differ in the number of features and their content.

The lack of objectivity in dictionary interpretations is emphasized by many scholars, see the viewpoint of the Polish linguist Wojciech Chlebda: "The belief that with the help of a dictionary we directly achieve linguistic reality and that it is an 'objective reality' is an illusion" (Chlebda, 2010, p. 14).

Complications in the selection of so-called "essential properties" of objects and phenomena are clearly evident in the definitions of the same word or its translated equivalents in different dictionaries. For example, when interpreting words that denote *lime* (*Lime*), twelve dictionaries of five different European languages (English, German, Polish, Russian, Italian) indicate from three to eight features of this tree, and the total number of differential features included in various definitions, a total of nineteen (see Zhuikova, Yodlovska, 2021, p. 60).

What is the reason for qualitative and quantitative differences in the definitions of specific vocabulary? Rebecca Frumkina tends to give the following explanation: "Interpretations differ due to which aspects of the denotation information contained in the name are judged by the authors of the interpretation as subjectively more important" (Frumkina, 1984, p. 16).

However, the lexicographer must take into account not only their own knowledge of the phenomena of the world, their impressions of them, preferences and evaluations. His task is much more difficult: to model the knowledge about the world that is characteristic of the average native speaker, a typical member of the linguistic and cultural community.

As Źmigrodzki writes, "Definitions should reflect the point of view of the average person with a general secondary level of education" (Źmigrodzki, 2009, p. 185).

As a result of this approach, it turns out that units of the same thematic group (e.g. plants, animals, tools, mechanisms, chemicals, etc.) can be described in the dictionary on the basis of different schemes, because the average speaker has different knowledge of basic and peripheral phenomena belonging to the same thematic group. Actually, it is a reflection of the cognitive approach to the construction of dictionary definitions. Here is how Piotr Źmigrodzki (2009, p. 186) editor of the new WSJP dictionary, describes the principles of constructing definitions for the names of natural objects: "The proposals for defining the names of animals and plants consist in differentiating the definitions depending on whether they relate to species with which the so-called the average person has direct contact (e.g. dog, cat, rose) or whose knowledge is based on cultural texts (cow, lion, mouse, meerkat, giraffe), or those that are completely unknown to the average Pole, and their linguistic image is (sometimes apart from knowing the name) completely empty, such as musk deer, muskrat, datura, etc. In the first case, the definitions should focus on the observable and linguistically significant features of the object".

As for the interpretations of the names of those plants and animals that are little known to the average Pole, according to Piotr Źmigrodzki, it is enough to provide general information about the higher category (plant, animal) and data on the habitat of a particular species ("lives in Asia, North America, Africa") (Źmigrodzki 2009, p. 186).

This approach, although it does not completely eliminate subjectivity in the choice of features, is based on a certain principle, which can be formulated in general terms and embodied in dictionary interpretations.

The subjectivity of definitions, about which R. Frumkina (1984) writes, is conditioned not only by the peculiarities of the linguistic consciousness of native speakers and the instructions of specific lexicographers. It seems to us that this subjectivity can have its roots in the national perception of certain phenomena of reality, which is inherent in a large language community and largely integrates this community into a single whole.

To identify and analyze the national and cultural specifics of the perception of the phenomena of reality, which is manifested in the definitions, we chose a group of tokens with a perceptual component in the lexical meaning, namely the thematic group "FRUITS". As all people have the same neuro-psychological mechanisms of perception of information coming to the brain through sensory channels, the difference in assessing the importance of perceptual information to characterize the denotation (referent sign) and its content (its specific quality) can be caused only by the peculiarities of a culture. Perceptual information is the basis of the so-called organoleptic assessment of food quality. In the process of organoleptic evaluation, the taster relies only on his own sensations (taste, smell, sight, touch, occasionally hearing) and does not use chemical analysis data. The group of tokens for fruits and berries, which are specially grown for consumption, in different languages includes from several tens to several hundred units. Among them are the names of well-known, common fruits and berries (*banana, orange, raspberry, pear, peach*, etc.), as well as nominations of those plant species that are cultivated only in a limited area or serve as names for certain varieties of fruit trees or shrubs.

The purpose and material of the study. The purpose of our study is to identify the presence / absence of the perceptual trait 'taste' in the definitions of words to denote the fruits of some cultivated plants, to analyze the correlation between reality and interpretation of its name, and to try to explain the identified features at the level of interpretations included in each dictionary. We selected ten explanatory dictionaries for the study: one dictionary of five Slavic languages (Bulgarian, Belarusian, Ukrainian, Russian, Czech), one dictionary of two Romance languages (Italian and Romanian), and three dictionaries of English, which were published in Britain and the United States. All the dictionaries involved are one-volume, designed for a wide range of native speakers and generally do not provide encyclopedic information about realities. The time of creation of these dictionaries is the second half of the XX century.

23 fruit nominations were selected for analysis, which we grouped into five subgroups:

- fruits that grow on trees typical of temperate climates (*apple, pear, plum, apricot, peach, cherry Prunus cerasus and cherry Prunus avium*).
- tropical and southern fruits (*mango, banana, fig, date, pineapple, pomegranate*);
- citrus (*orange, tangerine, grapefruit*);
- berries (*raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries, grapes, mulberries*);
- melons and gourds (*watermelon, melon*).

The criterion for selecting tokens in the study group was the presence of the maximum number of translated equivalents of the token in all or in the vast majority of dictionaries. Note that difficulties arose in finding a name for gooseberries in Italian; in addition, in some languages, various denotations are named in one word, such as *cherry (Prunus cerasus)* and *cherry (Prunus avium)*, which also complicates the analysis.

Material analysis.

Analysis of the definitions showed that lexicographers do not consider it necessary to include the perceptual feature 'taste' in the interpretation of the tokens of this group: in some dictionaries this feature is mentioned quite often, in other dictionaries, it is included occasionally, irregularly. This fact may seem strange, because many plants, such as *peach, pear, cherry (Prunus avium), fig, pineapple or orange*, are cultivated just to get delicious fruit. Therefore, a priori it can be expected that the sign 'taste qualities', along with other perceptual features of fruits (their size, shape, color, skin features, etc.), should be an important component of the lexical meaning of fruit and berry nominations. However, the term 'taste' is included in the definition of the surveyed dictionaries irregularly and is at first glance random.

An exception is a new lexicographic source "Active Dictionary of the Russian language", ed. Yuriy Apresyan (2014). This dictionary applies the principle of systematic description of vocabulary, which provides the same type of definition schemes for all units of a particular group. This principle is implemented in the group of fruit nominations. "In particular," writes Apresyan, "interpretations of fruit names should indicate: a) the object on which they grow, b) their size, c) shape, appearance, d) color, e) taste, e) thickness, g) structure" (Apresyan, ASRYA, v. 1, p. 22).

We found 13 tokens in three volumes of this dictionary that are included in our list of fruit nominations: *orange, grapefruit, tangerine; pear, cherry Prunus cerasus, peach, apricot; pineapple, banana; grapes, strawberries; melon, watermelon*. Their interpretations include the following taste markers: 'sweet' (pear, strawberry, melon, banana, etc.), 'sour-sweet' (apricot, pineapple), 'sourish-sweet' (cherry *Prunus cerasus*) and 'bitter-sweet' (grapefruit).

We do not observe the similar system in other explanatory dictionaries. The linguistic ways of labeling the sign 'taste' in definitions can be different: first, simple adjectives to denote taste (*sweet, dolce, сладък, aspro, възкисел, bitter*), noun groups such as *s nahořklou chutí, di sapore amarognolo* and others, and secondly, complex adjectives that denote combined flavors, such as Russian *кисло-сладкий*, Romanian *dulce-acrișor* (literally 'sweet and sour'). The analysis of the definitions of tokens from the group "fruits" can be done in two aspects: first, considering the dictionary interpretation of all names (translational equivalents) of the same denotation, and secondly, considering the data of one dictionary for all words from the list of selected vocabulary. These two approaches give different results. The obtained data can be compared to identify both general trends and national specifics, which are presented in dictionaries of different languages. Let us consider two named aspects successively.

A. Comparative analysis of dictionary interpretations of the nomination of translation equivalents.

In the first subgroup we included the following fruits: apple (*Malus domestica*), pear (*Pyrus communis*), plum (*Prunus domestica*), apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*), peach (*Prunus persica*), cherry (*Prunus cerasus* and *Prunus avium*). On average, ripe fruits of *apples, pears, plums, peaches* and *apricots* contain up to 9-10% sugars and a certain amount of organic acids, which also affects the taste sensations which people get from fruits.

The most common fruit tree in the culture is *an apple*; about 7,500 varieties have now been grown that differ in taste. We found a sign of taste in the description of apple nominations only in four studied sources, namely in dictionaries of Italian, Bulgarian, Belarusian and Russian languages:

Mela: il frutto ... di sapore gradevolmente **dolce** (fruit... with a pleasant sweet taste) (DFLI, p. 601)

Ябълка: ... **възкисел или сладък** сочен плод с кълбовидна форма (sour or sweet juicy fruit of spherical shape) (BTR, p. 1090).

Яблыня: Пладовае дрэва ... з ядомымі круглымі **салодкімі** або **кісла-салодкімі** пладамі (Fruit tree... with edible round sweet or sweet and sour fruits) (TSBLM, p. 962)

Яблоня: Фруктовое дерево ... с шаровидными **сладкими** или **кисло-сладкими** плодами (Fruit tree ... with spherical sweet or sour-sweet fruits) (TSRYa, p.1133).

In the definition of *pear* (*Pyrus communis*), the sign 'sweet' is given in only two English dictionaries.

Pear: **a sweet fruit**, usually with a green skin and a lot of juice... (CAMBR)

Pear: **a sweet** fruit that is narrow near the stem and rounded at the other end ... (MERR-WEBS, p. 1193)

The dictionary of the Italian language states that pears are very tasty.

Pero: pianta largamente diffusa in frutticoltura per i suoi frutti **molto gustosi** (a plant widely used in fruit – growing because of its very tasty fruits) (DFLI, p. 713)

The lexical meaning of the names of the *peach* does not always include the sign 'sweet', it is presented only in three dictionaries of the English language.

Peach: a round fruit with **sweet** yellow flesh that has a lot of juice ... (CAMBR)

Peach: a soft juicy fruit with a downy skin, yellowish-orange **sweet** flesh ... (COLLD)

Peach: a round, **sweet** fruit ... (MERR-WEBS, p. 1192)

In the interpretation of the nominations for the *plum* fruit, there is also almost no indication of taste. We found it in only two English dictionaries.

Plum: a small, round fruit with a ... **sweet**, soft flesh ... (CAMBR)

Plum: a round, juicy fruit that has red or purple skin, **sweet** yellow flesh ... (MERR-WEBS, p. 1241)

Regarding the definitions of the names of the apricot, the sign 'sweet' is given in the interpretations of dictionaries of Italian, Ukrainian, Belarusian and Russian languages:

Albicòcca: il frutto ... che e una drupa commestibile dal colore giallo rosato e dal **sapore dolce** (... it is an edible drupe of pinkish yellow color and with sweet taste) (DFLI, p. 33).

Абрикоса: Жовтогарячий соковитий плід... **солодкий** на смак (Orange juicy fruit... sweet to taste) (VTSUM, p.2)

Абрыкос: Паўднёвае фруктовае дрэва з жоўта-чырвонымі **салодкімі** пладамі з буйной костачкай (Southern fruit tree with yellow-red sweet fruit with a large pit) (TSBLM, p. 25)

Абрикос: Южное фруктовое дерево ... дающее сочные **сладкие** плоды с крупной косточкой (Southern fruit tree ... producing juicy sweet fruit with large pit) (TSRYa, p. 1)

Fruit trees such as *Prunus cerasus* and *Prunus avium* are very similar biologically, but have different distribution areas and cultivation areas. In some languages, the speakers of which are well acquainted with both trees, there are two words to denote them. (Romanian *vişină* and *cireaşă*, Ukrainian *вишня* and *черешня*, Czech *višně* and *třešně*, Bulgarian *вишна* and *череша*).

In English, the word *cherry* refers to the tree *Prunus cerasus*. In Italian, the word *ciliegia* refers to the tree *Prunus avium*. However, in the lexicographic description of the fruits of the tree *Prunus avium* there was never any indication of the sweet taste of the fruit. Only the Romanian dictionary states that the fruit of this tree is *foarte gustoase* ('very tasty').

The fruits of the tree *Prunus cerasus* are described as sour in three dictionaries (Romanian, Bulgarian and Czech).

Vişină: Fructul vişinului, mic, rotund, cărnos, de culoare roşie, cu gust **acrişor** (Cherry fruits, small, round, fleshy, red, with a sourish taste) (DLRLC)

Вишна: Вид овощно дърво, подобно на череша, с червени и **възкисели** плодове (з кислими плодами) (A type of fruit tree, similar to a cherry, with red and sour fruits) (BTR, p. 100)

Višně: malý kulatý **kyselý** tmavočervený plod (stromu) višně... (small round **sour** dark red fruits of cherry tree) (ISSC)

The considered dictionary of the Italian language also contains the token *amarena*, which is synonymous with *ciliegiu acido* (= *sour cherry*) and denotes a common variety of cherry species *Prunus cerasus*, subspecies *Prunus cerasus var. amarena*. Its fruits are described in encyclopedias as bitter-sour, with a light red color.¹ An explanatory dictionary defines their taste as bitter:

marena: frutto **di sapore amarognolo**, prodotto da un tipo di (fruit with a bitter taste) (DFLI, p. 44)

The second subgroup of tokens includes nouns to denote fruits that grow in tropical and subtropical areas, where there is a lot of sun and heat. These are the following plants: *mango* (*Mangifera*), *banana* (*Musa*), *fig* (*Ficus carica*), *date* (*Phoenix dactylifera*), *pineapple* (*Ananas comosus*), *pomegranate* (*Punica granatum*). Most of these fruits can be transported fresh, and therefore they are quite well known in countries with temperate climates.

Despite the fact that southern fruits contain more sugars than those that grow in the temperate climate of Europe, not all dictionaries describe tokens from this group in the same way.

The largest number of definitions with the marker ‘sweet’ refers to tokens to denote *dates*. This fruit has an extremely high sugar content, about 66-68% (Skurikhin, 1987, p. 70). Therefore, it is natural that the sign ‘sweet’ is included in the interpretation as defining and relevant. The only exception is the definition from the dictionary of the Belarusian language, it states only that the date is the fruit of the date palm, which can be eaten («ядомы плод фінікавай пальмы») (TSBLM, p. 883). The dictionary of the Ukrainian language records the excessively sweet taste of dates, which can cause unpleasant sensations in humans:

Фінік: плід ... з соковитим **нудотно-солодким** м’якушем (VTSUM, p. 1537) (fruit... with juicy nauseating-sweet pulp).

Fresh **figs** (*Ficus carica*) can contain about 11-12% of sugars. Naturally, the definitions of tokens for figs in most dictionaries also include the sign ‘sweet’, for example:

Fig: a **sweet**, soft, purple, or green fruit with many seeds (CAMBR)

Only in two dictionaries (Belarusian and Bulgarian) the sign of taste is not indicated in the description of the lexical meaning, cf.:

Смокиня: Храст или дребно дърво със заоблени длановидни листа и месест плод (bush or small tree with rounded finger-shaped leaves and fleshy fruit) (BTR, p. 903)

Ripe banana (*Musa*) contains up to 20% sugars. Banana tokens are marked ‘sweet’ in half of the sources analyzed (in the British Dictionary of English, in the dictionaries of Italian, Ukrainian, Belarusian and Romanian).

Banana: a long, curved fruit with a yellow skin and soft, **sweet**, white flesh inside (CAMBR)

Banana: il frutto del banana ... allungata e ricurva, di colore giallo e di sapore **assai dolce** (the banana fruit ... elongated and curved, yellow in color and with a very sweet taste) (DFLI, p. 110)

Банан: довгастий **солодкуватий** плід (oblong sweet fruit) (VTSUM, p. 59)

Банан: ... мучністы **салодкі** плод (floury sweet fruit) (TSBLM, p. 104)

In the Romanian dictionary, the banana is characterized by the sign ‘sugary’, which also indicates the sweet taste of the fruit:

banană: Fructul bananului; are o formă lunguiață și este cărnos, făinos, **zaharos** și aromatic (banana fruit; elongated, fleshy, floury, with sugar, fragrant) (DLRLC)

¹ (https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prunus_cerasus)

The fruit **mango** (*Mangifera*), which contains about 12-15% of sugars depending on the variety, is also called sweet in half of the surveyed dictionaries, but the set of these dictionaries is different. The 'sweet' sign is given by one of the English dictionaries, as well as dictionaries of Bulgarian, Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian languages.

Mango: the egg-shaped edible fruit of a tropical Asian tree, with a smooth rind and **sweet** juicy flesh (COLLD)

Манго: жовто-зелений **солодкий** завбільшки з огірок або невелику диню плід (yellow-green sweet the size of a cucumber or a small melon fruit) (VTSUM, p. 643)

Манго: азиатско вечнозелено тропическо дърво със **сладки** ароматни плодове (Asian evergreen tropical tree with sweet aromatic fruits) (BTR, p. 435)

According to scientific data, the tropical fruit **pineapple** (*Ananas comosus*) contains about 11.5% sugar, which is slightly less than mango. Pineapple is called sweet only in the American Dictionary of English:

Pineapple: a large fruit that grows on a tropical tree and that has thick skin and **very sweet**, juicy, yellow flesh (MERR-WEBS, p. 1222)

The 'very sweet' sign here emphasizes the extraordinary, special sweetness of the pineapple. The taste of *pineapple* is included in the definition of two more dictionaries: Ukrainian and Romanian, but this taste is marked as 'sour-sweet'.

Ананас: рослина з великим **кислуvато-солодким** на смак плодом (plant with a large sour-sweet fruit to taste) (VTSUM, p. 28)

Ananas: fructul comestibil ... de culoare gălbuie-roșatică, cu gust **dulce-acrișor**, foarte aromat și succulent (Edible fruits... reddish-yellow color, with a sweet-sour taste, very fragrant and juicy) (DLRLC)

For **pomegranate fruit** (*Punica granatum*) there was not indication of the sign 'sweet' in the dictionaries, despite the fact that the juice of ripe pomegranate, according to scientists, contains about 11% sugar, ie about as much as pineapple and fig pulp (Skurikhin, p. 70). In the definitions of the two dictionaries, we found the marker 'sour-sweet'.

Гранат: ... круглы ярка-чырвоны плод з **кисла-салодкім** сокам (round bright red fruit with sweet and sour juice) (TSBLM, p.197)

Гранат: ... круглый зернистый тёмно-красный плод с многочисленными **кисло-сладкими** семенами (round grainy dark red fruit with numerous sweet and sour seeds) (TSRYa, p. 168)

Only in the Italian dictionary the taste of pomegranate is characterized as "pleasantly sour":

Melagrana: ... i semi che sono di color rubino e **di sapore gradevolmente aspro** (...seeds have a ruby color and a pleasant sour taste) (DFLI, p. 601)

In the subgroup of citrus fruit nominations, where we have included three realities (orange, tangerine and grapefruit), there are also differences in the description of their taste. According to scientists, the percentage of sugars is the same in orange and tangerine (8.1% each) and lower in grapefruit — only 6.5 (Skurikhin, 1987, p.72).

Of the ten dictionaries surveyed, six provide information on the taste of *tangerine*. These are two dictionaries of English, as well as Italian and Russian dictionaries, where the taste is marked simply as 'sweet', as well as dictionaries of the Belarusian and Ukrainian languages, in which the taste of tangerine is marked as sour-sweet.

Mandarino: frutto, simile a piccola arancia, però **più dolce** e profumato (fruit similar to orange, but sweeter and fragrant) (DFLI, p. 588)

Tangerine: the small orange-like fruit, with a **sweet** juicy flesh, of an Asian tree (COLLD)

Мандарин: цитрусовое дерево, а также сочный ароматный **сладкий** плод его с мягкой оранжевой кожурой (citrus tree, as well as its juicy fragrant sweet fruit with a soft orange peel) (TSRYa, p. 427)

Мандарин: невеликий оранжевого кольору **кисло-солодкий** плід (small orange sweet and sour fruit) (VTSUM, p. 644)

We have found information about the taste of *orange* in the interpretations of only four dictionaries. Dictionaries of the Belarusian and Russian languages define its taste as sweet and sour,

one of the dictionaries of the English language as sweet, and the dictionary of the Italian language states that the fruits are sweet and bitter:

Orange: a round **sweet** fruit that has a thick orange skin and an orange centre divided into many parts (CAMBR)

Апельсин: сочный ароматный **кисло-сладкий** плод ... с мягкой кожурой оранжевого цвета (juicy fragrant sweet and sour fruit ... with a soft orange peel) (TSRYa, p. 17)

Arancia: il frutto dell'arancio ... all'interno è format da spicchi polposi e sugosi, **dolci o amarognoli** secondo la qualità (orange fruit... inside consists of pulp and juicy slices, sweet or bitter depending on the quality) (DFLI, p. 70)

Names for **grapefruit**, which contains less sugar than orange and tangerine is valued for its original bitter taste, are marked with the marker 'sour-sweet' in only two dictionaries (Ukrainian and Bulgarian), and the Bulgarian dictionary also fixes the bitter taste of the fruit.

Грейпфрут: запашний соковитий плід... **кисло-солодкий** на смак (fragrant juicy fruit... sweet and sour taste) (VTSUM, p. 260)

Грейпфрут: ... дърво с едри и кръгли жълти плодове със сочна месеста част, **сладко-кисела** с горчив привкус (tree with large round yellow fruits with juicy fleshy pulp, sweet and sour, with a bitter taste) (BTR, p. 144)

In three dictionaries (Belarusian, Russian and Romanian) the taste of *grapefruit* is marked as sour and bitter.

Грейпфрут: сочный ароматный **горьковато-кислый** плод ... с твердой желтой кожурой (juicy, fragrant, bitter-sour fruit ... with a hard yellow peel) (TSRYa, p. 169)

Grepfrut: Fruct tropical de culoare galbenă, mai mare decât portocala și cu **gust acru-amăru** (Yellow tropical fruit, larger than orange and sour bitter taste) (DLRLC)

Interestingly, in three dictionaries (English, Italian and Czech) the taste of this fruit is marked simply as bitter.

Grapefruit: velký žlutý kulatý plod ... **s nahořklou chutí** (large yellow round fruits ... **with a bitter taste**) (ISSC)

Pompelmo: il frutto ... che è simile all'arancia ma più grosso, più ricco di succo dal caratteristico sapore **amarognolo** (fruit... similar to orange, but larger, richer in juice with a characteristic bitter taste) (DFLI, p. 734)

Grapefruit: a large round yellow juicy citrus fruit with **a slightly bitter taste** (COLLD)

Finally, only one British English dictionary includes the term 'sweet' in the definition, but emphasizes that *grapefruit* is less sweet than *orange*.

Grapefruit: a fruit that is like a large orange, but has a yellow skin and **tastes less sweet** (CAMBR)

The fourth subgroup of nominations denotes berries: *raspberries* (*Rubus idaeus*), *strawberries* (*Fragaria*), *gooseberries* (*Ribes uva-crispa*), *grapes* (*Vitis*), *mulberries* (*Morus*). These berries are also valued for their taste and are cultivated in the large Eurasian temperate zone. The largest amount of sugars is found in *grapes* (about 15-20% glucose, but sometimes in some varieties the amount of glucose increases to 30%). Next in the list of berries by the number of sugars is *mulberry* (12% of sugars), followed by *gooseberries* (about 10-12%), *raspberries* (about 8-10%) and *strawberries* (about 6-9%).

Only four dictionaries gave a definition of taste in the definitions of *grapes*: the marker 'sweet' was used in all these interpretations.

Grape: a small round **sweet** juicy fruit with a purple or green skin (COLLD)

Réva: druh révy ... pěstovaný pro **sladké** bobule (hrozny), z kterých se vyrábí víno a hrozinky (vine type... grown to produce sweet berries (grapes) from which wine and raisins are made) (ISSC)

Виноград: Южное лиановое растение со **сладкими** ягодами... (Southern liana plant with sweet berries ...) (TSRYa, p. 93)

The taste of **raspberries** is indicated in five dictionaries. In four sources (this is one of the dictionaries of English, dictionaries of Belarusian, Russian and Czech), this taste is defined as 'sweet'. Only in the dictionary of the Ukrainian language the sign 'sour-sweet' is included in the definition.

Raspberry: a soft, red berry that is **sweet** and juicy (MERR-WEBS, p. 1338)

Malina: červený šťavnatý **sladký** plod maliníku, složený z drobných kuliček (red juicy sweet raspberry fruit made of small balls) (ISSC)

Малина: полукустарниковое растение ... со **сладкими**, обычно красными, ягодами (semi-shrub ... with sweet, usually red berries) (TSRYa, p. 426)

Малина: ... рослина з **кисло-солодкими** запашними ягодами (... Plant with sweet and sour fragrant berries) (VTSUM, p. 540)

When interpreting the tokens for strawberry (*Fragaria*), the taste is indicated in five dictionaries. Strawberry is defined as a sweet berry in four dictionaries (English, Russian, Belarusian and Czech); in the dictionary of the Ukrainian language the taste of this berry is described as 'sour-sweet'.

Strawberry: a **sweet** fleshy red fruit with small seeds on the outside (COLLD)

Клубніця: шматгадова травяніста рослина з **солодкіми** чырвонымі ягадамі (perennial herb with sweet red berries) (TSBLM, p. 368)

Полуниця: рожево-червона **кисло-солодка** ягода (pink-red sour-sweet berry) (VTSUM, p. 1036)

We found a sign of taste in the nominations of *gooseberry* (*Ribes uva-crispa*) in seven dictionaries (there is no nomination for gooseberry in the Italian dictionary at all). *Gooseberry* berries, despite the fact that they contain a lot of sugars (at least 10%), are described by dictionaries as 'sour' (two English dictionaries and a Romanian dictionary) or 'sweet and sour' (Ukrainian, Russian and Belarusian dictionaries).

Gooseberries: a small green berry that has a *sour taste* (MERR-WEBS, p. 712)

Gooseberries: a small, green fruit covered with short hairs. Gooseberries grow on bushes and have a **sour taste** (CAMBR)

Агрэст: калючая садовая кустовая расліна з **кісла-солодкіми** буйнымі ягадамі (prickly garden shrub with sweet and sour large berries) (TSBLM, p. 36)

In the Czech dictionary, the taste of this berry is marked with the word 'tart'.

Ангрешт: plod srstky angreštu, s **natrpklou příchutí** (gooseberry fruit, with a tart taste) (ISSC)

Only two dictionaries indicated the taste among the differential features of the fruit of the mulberry tree (*Morus*). This is a dictionary of the Russian language, where 'sweet' is marked, and a dictionary of the Ukrainian language, which states that these berries are sweet and sour-sweet.

Шелковица: Тутовое дерево, а также **сладкий** сочный плод его (The mulberry tree, as well as its sweet juicy fruit) (TSRYa, p. 1104)

Шовковиця: **Солодкі** чи **кисло-солодкі** білі, рожеві або темно-фіолетові соковиті ягоди (Sweet or sour-sweet white, pink or dark purple juicy berries) (VTSUM, p. 1627)

In the subgroup of melons and gourds nominations, which includes the names melon and watermelon, it is possible to find a more regular inclusion of taste traits in the definition. The amount of sugars in these fruits is about the same as in apples, apricots and pears, in the range of 8.7 to 9%. Melon is characterized as 'sweet' in the seven studied dictionaries. Only three dictionaries (English Collins, Bulgarian and Ukrainian) did not specify the taste of melon in the definitions.

Melon: a large, round fruit that has a hard skin and **sweet**, juicy flesh (MERR-WEBS, p. 1018)

Pepene: plantă ... cu fructul mare, oval sau sferic, având miezul ... **dulce**, parfumat și succulent (plant... with large oval or spherical fruits, with a pith... sweet, fragrant and juicy) (DLRLC)

Six dictionaries gave a sign of taste 'sweet' for watermelon in the definitions. We do not find it only in some dictionaries of Slavic languages (Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Czech), as well as in the British dictionary (CAMBR).

Cocomero: ... un grande frutto a forma sferica o allungato, ricoperto da cortecchia verde che racchiude una polpa acquosa e **dolce** (watermelon... a large spherical or elongated fruit covered with green bark that encloses the watery and sweet pulp) (DFLI, p. 201)

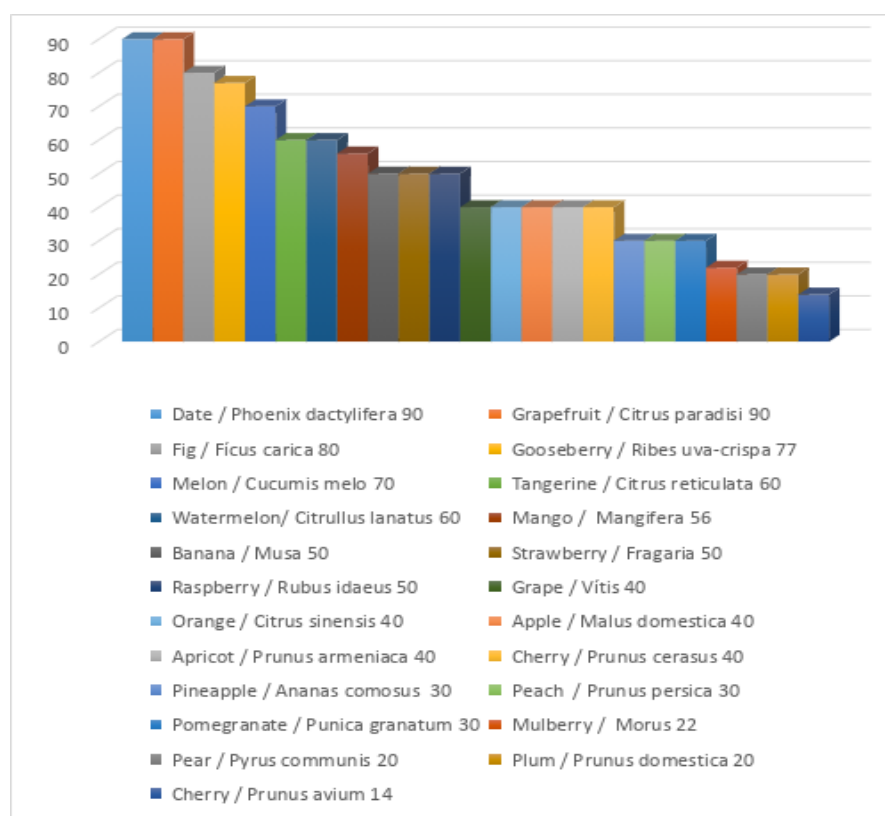
Watermelon: a large round melon with a hard green rind and **sweet** watery reddish flesh (COLLD)

Thus, in ten dictionaries of different languages different numbers of cases of fixing of taste of fruits in definitions are revealed. We present the obtained data taking into account the presence of a feature in the lexical meaning in Table 1 and in Diagram 1:

Table 1. Inclusion of ‘taste’ in the definition of dictionaries (absolute data; the second figure indicates the number of dictionaries in which the corresponding name is present)

Date / Phoenix dactylifera	9/10	Raspberry Rubus idaeus	5/10	Peach / Prunus persica	3/10
Grapefruit / Citrus paradisi	9/10	Mango Mangifera	5/9	Pineapple / Ananas comosus	3/10
Fig / Ficus carica	8/10	Banana / Musa	5/10	Mulberry / Morus	2/9
Gooseberries Ríbes úva-crispa	7/9	Orange / Citrus sinensis	4/10	Pomegranate / Punica granatum	3/10
Melon Cucumis melo	7/10	Apple / Malus domestica	4/10	Pear / Pyrus communis	2/10
Watermelon/ Citrullus lanatus	6/10	Apricot / Prunus armeniaca	4/10	Plum / Prunus domestica	2/10
Tangerine / Citrus reticulata	6/10	Cherry / Prunus cerasus	4/10	Cherry / Prunus avium	1/7
Strawberry Fragaria	5/10	Grape Vitis	4/10		

Diagram 1. Inclusion of the sign ‘taste’ in each of the definitions of explanatory dictionaries (percentage)



It can be assumed that there are some extra-linguistic factors that motivate lexicographers to a certain way of describing the fruit (with or without the presentation of information about the taste). The data illustrated in the diagram show that most often the sign of ‘taste’ occurs in the interpretations of two fruits: *dates* and *grapefruit*. Dates differ in the group of fruits with a very high sugar content, this may be the reason for the inclusion of taste in its descriptive characteristics. Grapefruit, on the other hand, is valued for its original bitter taste; bitterness in general is an abnormal characteristic of cultivated

fruits and in all cultures is assessed as something negative and sometimes threatening, dangerous. Thus, both dates and grapefruit are atypical fruits among others, and this causes the fixation of the sign `taste` in their definitions. At the opposite end of the scale are the usual and popular in the European tradition fruits (*peach*, *pear* and *plum*), as well as little-known mulberry. Mulberry fruits are not a common object of marketing (they are poorly transported, they are difficult to collect from the tree), and trees are cultivated primarily for feeding silkworms, not for the consumption of berries. So, these berries are not accepted like something which is often eaten. Instead, *peaches*, *pears* and *plums* are such well-known fruits for speakers that the mention of their taste in the definitions can be perceived as trivial information.

It should be emphasized once again that the inclusion / non-inclusion of the sign `taste` (for example, sweet, sour) in the definition of the analyzed tokens does not depend on the peculiarities of reality. It would be a mistake to think that the taste of *watermelon* is more important to people than the taste of *peach* or *pineapple*. All fruits of the selected group have a distinct, pleasant taste, and the plants on which they grow are specially cultivated to produce fruit. Our sample demonstrates well the phenomenon of subjectivity in the selection of differential features in the interpretation of a word in the dictionary.

B. Analysis of the definitions of tokens to denote fruits according to each dictionary.

A comparative analysis of the definitions of fruit names has shown that the inclusion of the term `taste` in the interpretation is irregular and often even accidental. After analyzing 10 dictionaries, we did not find a single dictionary in which all the tokens selected for analysis would be consistently characterized by an indication of the taste of the fruit. Generalized data on the use of the `taste` feature in various dictionaries can be found in the tables. Minus means that there is no sign of taste; plus means that this feature is not included (regardless of the meaning of this parameter).

Table 2. Inclusion of the sign `taste` in the definition of tokens of the group “fruits of temperate climate”

	<i>Apple</i>	<i>Pear</i>	<i>Peach</i>	<i>Plum</i>	<i>Prunus cerasus</i>	<i>Prunus avium</i>	<i>Apricot</i>
MERR-WEBS (Eng)	-	+	+	+	-	not present	-
CAMBR (Eng)	-	+	+	+	-	not present	-
COLLD (Eng)	-	-	+	-	-	not present	-
DFLI (Ita)	+	+	-	-	+	-	+
DLRLC (Rom)	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
BTR (Bul)	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
TSBLM (Bel)	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
VTSUM (Ukr)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
TSRYa (Rus)	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
ISSC (Ces)	-	-	-	-	+	-	-

Table 3. Inclusion of the sign `taste` in the definition of tokens of the group “fruits of (sub)tropical climate”

	<i>Banana</i>	<i>Pineapple</i>	<i>Mango</i>	<i>Fig</i>	<i>Pomegranate</i>	<i>Date</i>
MERR-WEBS (Eng)	-	+	-	+	-	+
CAMBR (Eng)	+	-	-	+	-	+
COLLD (Eng)	-	-	+	+	-	+
DFLI (Ita)	+	-	not present	+	+	+
DLRLC (Rom)	+	+	-	+	-	+
BTR (Bul)	-	-	+	-	-	+
TSBLM (Bel)	+	-	+	-	+	-
VTSUM (Ukr)	+	+	+	+	-	+
TSRYa (Rus)	-	-	+	+	+	+
ISSC (Ces)	-	-	-	+	-	+

Table 4. Inclusion of the sign ‘taste’ in the definition of tokens of the group “berries”

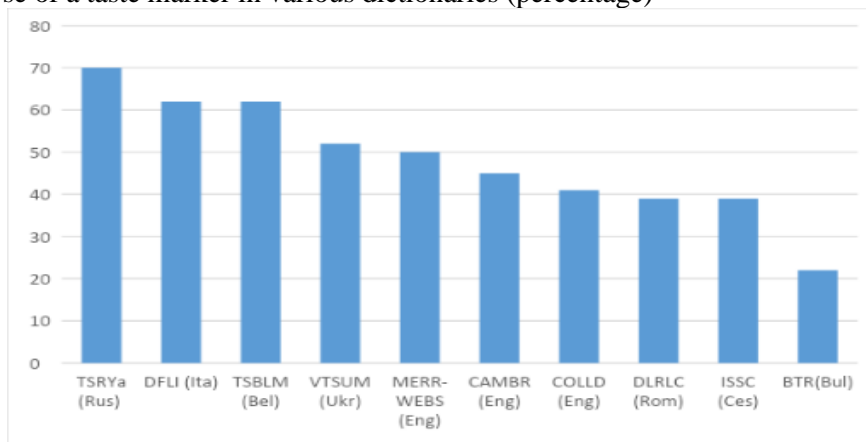
	<i>Raspberry</i>	<i>strawberry</i>	<i>Mulberry</i>	<i>Gooseberries</i>	<i>Grape</i>
MERR-WEBS (Eng)	+	-	-	+	-
CAMBR (Eng)	-	-	-	+	-
COLLD (Eng)	-	+	-	-	+
DFLI (Ita)	-	-	-	not present	-
DLRLC (Rom)	-	-	-	+	-
BTR (Bul)	-	-	-	-	-
TSBLM (Bel)	+	+	not presenty	+	+
VTSUM (Ukr)	+	+	+	+	-
TSRYa (Rus)	+	+	+	+	+
ISSC (Ces)	+	+	-	+	+

Table 5. Inclusion of the sign ‘taste’ in the definition of tokens of the group “citrus and melons and gourds”

	<i>Orange</i>	<i>Tangerine</i>	<i>Grapefruit</i>	<i>Watermelon</i>	<i>Melon</i>
MERR-WEBS (Eng)	-	+	-	+	+
CAMBR (Eng)	+	-	+	-	+
COLLD (Eng)	-	+	+	+	-
DFLI (Ita)	+	+	+	+	+
DLRLC (Rom)	-	-	+	+	+
BTR (Bul)	-	-	+	-	-
TSBLM (Bel)	+	+	not present	+	+
VTSUM (Ukr)	-	+	+	-	-
TSRYa (Rus)	+	+	+	+	+
ISSC (Ces)	-	-	+	-	+

Diagram 2. shows how the percentage of taste marker use in different dictionaries differs. It can be seen that this feature is most actively used in describing the lexical meaning of fruits in the dictionary of the Russian language (it is 16 definitions out of 23, ie 70%), and least often in dictionaries of Czech, Romanian (only 9 definitions) and Bulgarian (only 5 definitions - 22%).

Diagram 2. Use of a taste marker in various dictionaries (percentage)



The data given in Tables 2-5 allow us to identify some tendencies that are manifested in dictionaries in the description of tokens from the thematic group "Fruits".

It is appropriate to hypothesize the existence of a correlation between the degree of fruit distribution in a certain area, which roughly coincides with the area of dissemination of a certain language, and the frequency of use of the taste marker in dictionary definitions. The frequency of use of taste markers in the dictionary of a particular language may depend on how well (or poorly) native speakers of this language are familiar with certain fruits and know their taste.

Let us check this hypothesis on materials from dictionaries of Ukrainian (VTSUM), Belarusian TSBLM, Bulgarian BTR, Romanian DLRLC, Italian DFLI and Czech ISSC languages.

First of all, we divide all fruits into two subgroups: 1) fruits that have long been cultivated in the country; 2) fruits that are mainly imported into the country; if the relevant plants are cultivated on its territory, then locally (as a *fig* in the subtropical zone of Crimea, but not throughout Ukraine).

The first subgroup for Ukraine includes the following fruits: *apples, pears, peaches, apricots, cherry Prunus cerasus, cherry Prunus avium, plums, melons, watermelons, grapes* and all berries, a total of 14 fruits. The second subgroup includes all tropical crops and all citrus, a total of 9 fruits. Analysis of the definitions shows that the dictionary does not specify the taste for apples, pears, peaches, plums, *cherry Prunus cerasus, cherry Prunus avium, grapes*, as well as melons and watermelons; in this group of fruits, only apricots and some berries (*raspberries, gooseberries, strawberries, mulberries*) have the marker 'taste'. Among the 14 names of fruits that grow in Ukraine and are "native" for native speakers, only 36% of definitions include the sign "taste". In the second subgroup, the 'taste' sign is much more common: of the nine fruits, only the names pomegranate and orange do not contain it. The sign 'taste' is given in the interpretation of seven "foreign" fruits (*tangerine, grapefruit, fig, banana, pineapple, mango, date*). Thus, in this subgroup the degree of use of the feature reaches 78%.

The distribution of fruits between subgroups for the territory of Romania is somewhat different. Romania, like Ukraine, is located in a temperate-continental climate with hot summers and relatively short winters; like Ukraine, Romania has access to the Black Sea. In addition to those typical for Ukraine, *pomegranates* and *figs* also fall into the subgroup of "their" plants, ie the subgroup grows to 16 fruits. Only five definitions have a 'taste' marker (these are the names of *cherries, gooseberries, melons, watermelons, figs*), which is 31% of the definitions within this group. As for the subgroup of imported ("foreign") fruits, it is reduced to 7 units. The use of taste markers in this subgroup reaches 57% (in the definitions of *grapefruit, banana, pineapple, dates*).

Within Belarus, whose climate is characterized by lower temperatures than the climate of Ukraine, mostly fruit trees and berries of temperate climate (except *apricot, peach* and *mulberry*) are grown. You can combine 8 fruits into a subgroup of "your own". Four definitions from this subgroup in the Belarusian dictionary have a taste marker (*apple, raspberry, strawberry* and *gooseberry*), which is 50%. In the second subgroup, where we included thirteen fruits, flavor was included in nine definitions (*grape, apricot, orange, tangerine, melon, watermelon, banana, mango, pomegranate*), which is 69% within the subgroup.

In the Bulgarian dictionary, the taste marker is included in only 5 definitions; of these, two cases concern fruits that are common in Bulgaria (*apple, cherry*), and the other three uses occur in the definitions of imported fruits (*mango, date, grapefruit*). The total ratio of definitions is 13% in the subgroup of "their" fruits (this subgroup includes 16 names) to 43% in the second subgroup – imported fruit, which includes a total of 7 tokens.

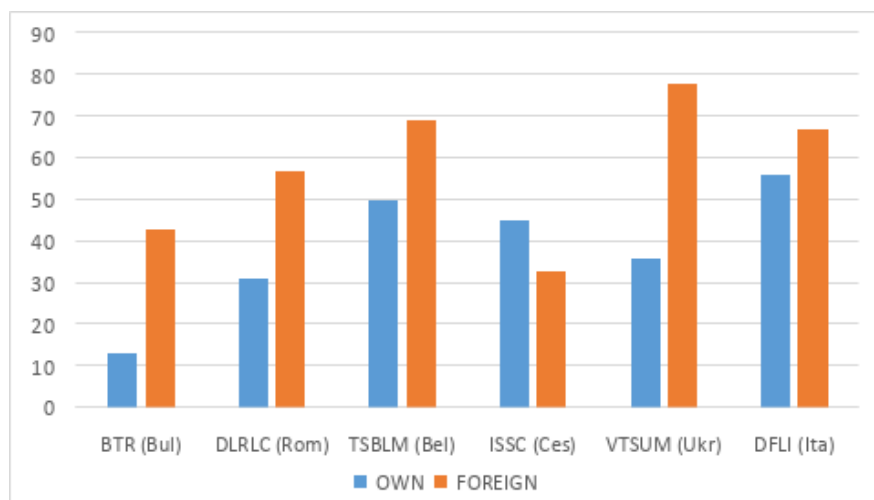
In Italy, most of the fruits we have chosen for cultivation are grown, so the subgroup of "their own" crops from the dictionary sample grows to 18 units, and the subgroup of imported fruits contains only three names (*pineapple, date, banana*). In general, the DFLI dictionary uses a taste marker quite actively, see Diagram 2. In the first subgroup, we found 10 cases of using this marker (*apple, pear, cherry, all citrus, melon, watermelon, fig, pomegranate*), which gives 56% of definitions. In the second subgroup, only the definition of pineapple does not contain the sign 'taste', ie this sign is given in 67% of definitions.

In the Czech Republic, different conditions for the cultivation of fruit plants, in particular, do not grow *peaches, watermelons* and *melons*. Therefore, the subgroup of "their own" fruits should be reduced to 11, and the subgroup of imported fruits should be increased to 12. In the Czech dictionary, the overall percentage of definitions with the mark "taste" is quite low, only 39%, as in the Romanian dictionary. In the subgroup of "their own" fruits cultivated in the Czech Republic, the taste marker occurs in the definitions of *plum* and four berries (except *mulberry*), which is within the subgroup of

45%. In the subgroup of imported fruits, this marker is used in only four definitions (*grapefruit, melon, fig, date*), which is 33%.

Diagram 3 presents data on the inclusion of taste markers in the definition of six dictionaries in the conditional groups "their own" and "foreign" fruits.

Diagram 3. Use of taste markers in the definitions of subgroups "their own fruits" and "foreign fruits" (percentage)



So, among the definitions of the six dictionaries, we can see the trend mentioned above in five: the sign 'taste' is more often used in a subgroup of names of fruits that are imported into the country, rather than grown in it. Only in the dictionary of the Czech language we see a different ratio of data: the marker 'taste' is more actively used in describing the lexical meaning of the names of "their own" fruits. However, the difference between the subgroups for the Czech language is essentially insignificant. If we increase the sample of tokens of the thematic group "Fruits" by including other exotic fruits, such as papaya, pomelo, passion fruit, kiwi, we could get other results.

Regarding the dictionaries of Russian and English languages, which we did not include in Diagram 3, we believe that it is impossible to obtain adequate data on the material of dictionaries of these languages for the distribution of definitions between subgroups. English is spoken on several continents, in areas with completely different climatic conditions, with different forms of agriculture and traditions of eating fruit. It is obvious that the lexicographers of English dictionaries cannot focus on the established ideas of a certain linguistic and cultural community that has lived for centuries on the same land in the same climate. However, it is worth noting such an important factor of language practice as the frequency of token use within the country. The FDCAE dictionary, which lists the frequencies of the first five thousand most commonly used tokens in the American English language, includes only four fruit names: *apple* (position in the frequency index № 1983), *orange* (position № 3342), *banana* (position № 4795), and *grape* (heading № 4871), see FDCAE, pp. 330-340. As can be seen from Tables 2-5, the three tokens (apple, orange, banana) in both American dictionaries do not have a taste marker, and the token grape is marked as sweet only in COLLID.

We did not resort to a comparative analysis of taste markers in the definitions of the Russian language dictionary due to the lack of common geographical and climatic conditions throughout the territory where the Russian language is widespread. The trend we have described above is based on common ideas about the phenomena of reality and is manifested only within the linguistic-cultural and linguistic-ethnic communities that live compactly in a certain area and have been farming in the same conditions for centuries.

Conclusions. Although the concepts of 'fruit' and 'taste' are closely linked at the conceptual level (the TASTE concept is one of the most important slots of the FRUIT concept), the 'taste' feature cannot be considered necessary in the dictionary description of a nomination on a thematic level of 'fruit' groups. Its inclusion in the definition of fruit in most dictionaries is irregular, random. The only exception is ASRYa, the lexicographers of which declare the obligatory inclusion of the sign 'taste' in the definition of all fruits. The choice of authors of other dictionaries, when describing the lexical

meaning of a word, is based on their subjective sense of the importance of this feature, on the awareness of the need to convey information about the taste of the fruit to potential readers of their dictionary.

We examined ten explanatory dictionaries of eight different languages, selected from these dictionaries tokens that belong to the thematic group (a total of 23 units), and formed a sample of definitions of these tokens. Our sample contains 223 microtexts. All the considered definitions are original and do not repeat each other, despite the fact that they provide information about the same objects that are available to humans through the senses (taste, sight, touch). One of the tasks of our analysis was to trace the use of a taste marker in fruit definitions (regardless of what taste information is conveyed in the definition).

We found (see Table 1) that the taste marker most often appears in the definitions of two fruits that stand out for their taste (these are very sweet *dates* and bitter *grapefruits*). In both fruits one can see deviations from the organoleptic norm, from a certain standard of taste known to speakers, and it is this inconsistency of the standard that motivates lexicographers to give a sign of the taste of dates and grapefruit as important, significant. On the other hand, broad awareness of speakers about the taste of common fruit is realized in dictionary definitions due to the tendency to ignore the sign of taste. As we have shown, in 60% of dictionaries the following fruits are not marked with the “taste” marker: *apple, orange, cherry, apricot, grape*, which are common for speakers of many languages.

In Table 2-5, we have included specific data on the definitions of each of the ten dictionaries. On the basis of these data it is possible to draw conclusions about features of construction of interpretations of a concrete lexicographical source. The dictionary of the Russian language TSRYa (the sign of taste includes 70% of definitions) and the dictionary of the Bulgarian language BTR (only 22% of definitions have this sign) turned out to be polar. The TSRYa dictionary attempts to provide the reader with more information about the taste of different fruits, so the lexicographer believes that this property of fruit should be recorded in the interpretation, regardless of whether speakers know something about a particular fruit or not. The BTR dictionary, on the other hand, provides significantly fewer definitions with a taste marker (mainly for those fruits that are imported into the country). Obviously, for native speakers of the Bulgarian language, the taste of most fruits is generally well known, and therefore this feature becomes trivial and uninformative.

Our analysis also showed a tendency to significantly reduce the use of the ‘taste’ marker in the group of fruits growing in the corresponding country. This can be explained only by the fact that the taste properties of a particular fruit or berry are constantly updated in the minds of speakers and form a single complex with other perceptual features (size, juiciness, color, shape, etc.). In such cases, the inclusion of a sign of taste in the dictionary definition can be intuitively perceived as a certain redundancy, as providing the reader with obvious, well-known information.

Another tendency which we have found in various dictionaries is the more active use of ‘taste’ in definitions of those fruits that are not typical of a particular country (territory) and therefore less common in perceptual experience. Thus, the dictionary definition provides information about the fruit that most native speakers do not receive directly through taste receptors.

It is interesting to note that the inclusion / exclusion of the sign “taste” in the definition of the same fruit may have different reasons in different dictionaries. For example, only in Bulgarian and Belarusian dictionaries the description of *figs* does not contain a sign of taste. For the native speaker of the Belarusian language, this fruit is little known, a small part of the linguistic and cultural community is familiar with its taste, while Bulgarians grow figs and eat it fresh and processed. Thus, for one culture, figs are exotic, for another, they are everyday consumption practices, and dictionary definitions in both dictionaries are similar.

In summary, it can be argued that dictionary definitions convey important cultural information: they reflect a certain unity of conceptual knowledge about the world of the whole linguistic and cultural community. Vocabulary definitions are a means of semantic construction of reality in accordance with certain tendencies in the assessment of extralingual phenomena. Thus, like language in general, the explanatory dictionary implicitly reflects the ethnocultural vision and worldview of members of a particular ethnic community.

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